## A Woman Intervenes.

By Robert Barr Auuthor of "The Face and Mask," "In the Midst of Alarms," etc. (Copyright, 1895, by Robert Barr.)

CHAPTER III. Next morning Wentworth worked his way, with much balancing and holding on of ston bions, along the deck, for the ship rolled fearfully, although there seemed to be little wind, and the sin was shining brightly, but the person be sought was nowhere visible. He thought he would go into the smoking room, but changed his mind at the door, and turned down the companionway to the main salcon. The tables had been cleared of the breakfast belongings, but on one of the small tables becomings, but on do of the state and at this spot of purity in the general effect of red push sat Miss Brewster, who was compareently ordering what she wanted from the steward, who did not seem at all pleased the steward, who did not seemia a hiperson-in serving one who had disregarded the breakfast hour to the disarrangement of all saloon rules. The chief steward stood by a door and looked disapprovingly at the late guest. It was almost time to lay the tables for hunch, and the young weman was as calmly ordering her breakfast as if she

had been the first personauthe table.

She looked up trightly at Wentworth, and smiled as he approached her.
"I suppose," the began. "I'm dreadfully late, and the steward looks as if he would

like to scold me. How awfully the ship is rolling. Is there a storm?"
"No. She seems to be doing this sort of thing for anusciment. Wants to make it interesting for the unfortunate passengers. who are not good sailors, I suppose. She is doing it, too. There's scarcely anyone on deck."
"Dear me. I thought we seemed.

"Dear me. I thought we were having a dreadful storm. Is it raining?"

"No. It's a beautiful sunshing day, without much wind, either, in spite of all this

"I suppose you have had your breakfast long ago."
"So long since that I am beginning to look
forward with pleasant anticipation to

"Oh, dear! I had no idea that I was so late as that. Perhaps you had better scold nie. Somebody ought to do it, and the steward seems a little afraid."

You overestimate my courage. I am i little afraid, too."
"Then you do think I deserve it?"

"I then you do think I deserve it."
"I didn't say that, nor do I think it. I confess, however, that up to this moment I felt just a trifle lonely."
"Just at trifle! Well, that is flattery. How nicely you Exglish do turn a compliment.]
Just a trifle!"
"I believe, as a race, we do not venture.

Just a trifle!"
"I believe, as a race, we do not venture much into compliment giving at all. We leave that for the politeforeigner. He would say what I tried to say a great deal better than I did, of course; but he would not mear 'Oh, that's very nice, Mr. Wentworth, No

foreigner could have put it nearly so well.

Now what about going on deck?

"Anywhere if you let me accompany you."

"I shall be most delighted to have you. I

won't say merely a trifle delighted."
"Ah! Haven't you forgiven that remark yet?"
"There's nothing to forgive, and it is quite

too delicious to forget. I shall never forget "I believe that you are very cruelat heart.

Miss Brewster."

The young woman gave him a curious side

The young woman gave him a curious side look, but did not answer. She gathered the wraps she had taken from her cabin, and, handing them to him before he had thought of offering to take them, they went on deck. He found their chairs side by side, and ad-mired the intelligence of the deck steward. who seemed to understand what chairs to place together. Miss Jennie sank gracefully into her own., and allowed him to adjust the wraps around her. "There," she said, "that's very nicely done; as well as the deck steward himself could do it, and I am sure it is impossible

to pay you a more graceful compliment than that. So few men know how to ar-range one comfortably in a steamer chair."
"You speak as though you had vast expe-rience in steamer life, and yet you told

me this was your first voyage."

"It is. But it doesn't take a woman more than a day to see that the average man attends to such little niceties very clamsily. Now, just tuck in the corner out of sight. There; thank you ever somuch And would you be kind enough to—yes, that's better. And this other wrap so. Oh, that is perfect. What a patient man you Went worth.

"Yes, Miss Brewster, you are a foreigner.
I can see that now. Your professed compliment washollow. You said I did it perfectly. and then immediately directed me how to do

I think you ought not to grudge me the plea ure of adding my own little improvements "Oh, if you put it that way I will not. Now, before I sit down tell me what book I canget that will interest you. The library contains

'I don't think I care about reading. Sit down and talk. I suppose I am too indolent to-day. I thought when I came on board that I would do a lot of reading, but I believe the sea air makes one lazy. I must confess I feel entirely indifferent to mental improvement." "You evidently do not think my converaction will be at all worth listening to

"How quick you are to pervert my meaning. Don't you see that I think your coversation better worth listening to than the most interesting or improving book you can choose from the library? Really, in trying to avoid giving you cause for mak-ing such a remark, I have apparently stumbled into a worse error. I was just-going to say I would like your conver-sation much better than a book, when I thought you would take that as a reflection on your reading. If you take me so sharply I will sit here and say nothing. Now, then,

be doing the talking. Tell me about your-self. What do you do in London?"

"I work hard. I am an accountant."
"And what is an accountant? What does he de? Keep accounts?"
"Some of them do; I do not. I see. rather, that accounts other people keep have been correctly kept."

"Arn't they always correctly kept? I thought that was what bookkeepers were "If books were always correctly kept, there would be little for us to do; but it

bappens, unfortunately for some but fortun-ately for us, that people occasionally do not keep their accounts accurately."

"And can you always find that out if you examine the books?"
"Always." "Can't a man make his accounts so that no

has placed many a poor wretch in prison. It has been tried often enough.

"I am sure they can do it in the States.

I have read of it being done and continued for years. Men have made off with great sums of money by falsifying the books, and no one found it out until the one who did it

died or ran away."
"Nevertheless, if an expert accountant had been called in, he would have found out very, soon that something was wrong, and just where the wrong was and how much." "I didn't think such eleverness possible

Have you ever discovered anything like that?"

What is done when such a thing is dis

"That depends upon circumstances. Usually a policeman is called in."
"Why, it's like being a detective. I wish

you would tell me about some of the cases you have had. Don't make me ask so many questions. Talk."
"I don't think my experience would interest you in the least. There was one case with which I had something to do in London two years ago that."

some of your very sharpest American bookkeepers. I found that the books had been kept in the most ingenious way with the intent to deceive. The system had been going on for years."

"How interesting. And did you call in a

"No. This was one of the cases where a policeman was not necessary. The books were kept with the object of showing that the profits of the mi-of the business—had been much greater than they really were. I may say that one of your Alterican accommants and already looked over the books. countants had already looked over the books, and, whether through ignorance of carelesse ness, of from a werse motive, he reported them all right, and the fact that they were not will mean the loss of a fortune to some people on your side of the water and the saving of good money to others on my side."
"Then I think your profession must be a

very important one."

"We think so, Mits Brewster. I would like to be paid a percentage on the money saved because of my report.

"And won't you?"

"And won't you?"
"Unfortunately, no."
"I think that is too had. I suppose the
discrepancy must have been small, or the
American accountant would not have over-"I didn't say that he overlooked it

Still the size of a discrepancy does not make the difference. A small error is as easily found as a large one. This one was large. I suppose there is no harm in my saying that the books, taking them together, showed a profit of 140,000, when they should have shown a loss of nearly half that amount. I

hope nobody overhears me."
"No; we are quite alone, and you may be sure I will not breathe a word of what you have been telling me.
"Don't breathe it to Kenyon, at least.
He would think me Insane if he knew what

I have said."
"Is Mr. Kenyon an accountant, too?"
"Oh, no; he is a mineralogist. He can go into a mine and tell with reasonable certainty whether it will pay the working or not. Of course, as he says himself, any man can see six feet into the earth as well as he can. But it is not every man who can gauge the value of a working mine as well as John Kenyon."

furures, your companion was delving among the minerals?"

"Precisely." "And did he make any such startling dis overy as you did?"
"No; rather the other way. He finds the

there will come a day, Mr. Wentworth, when you will admit that there are Americans who are more clever than either that accountant or that newspaper man. I don't think your specimens are typical."

"I don't run down, as you callit, the men because they are Americans. I rundown'the accountant because he was either ignorant or corrupt. I 'run down' the newspaper man because he was a thief."

Miss Brewster was silent for a few moments. She was impressing on her memory what he had said to her and was anxious toget away, so that she could write out inher cabinexacily what had been told her. The sound of the lunch gong gave her the excuse she needed, so, bidding her victima pleasant and friendly farewell, she hurried from the deck to her stateroom.

CHAPTER IV.

There was one man on board the Coloric to whom Wentworth had taken an extreme dislike. His name was Fleming, and he chained to be a New York politician. As none of his friends or enemies asserted any-thing worse about him, it may be assured that Fleming had designated his occupation orrectly. If Wentworth were asked what ie most disliked about the man he would ne most disniced about the man he would probably have said his offensive familiarity. Flending seemed to think himself a genial good fellow, and he was immensely popular with a certain class in the snoking-room. He was lavishly free with his invitations He was lavishly free with his invitations to drink and he always had a case of good eigars in his pocket, which he bestowed with great liberality. He had the habit of slapping a man boisterously on the back and saxing: "Well, old fellow, how are you? How's things?" He usually confided to his listenera that he was a self-made man, had landed at New York without a cent in his pocket, and look at him now.

Wentworth was ley to ward this man, but frigidity had no effect whatever on the exuberant spirits of the New York politician. "Well, old man," cried Fieming to Wentworth, as he case up to the latter and linked arms affectionately. "What lovely weather

worth, as he cause up to the latter and linked arms affectionately, "What lovely weather we are having for winter time."
"It is good," said Wentworth "Good! It's glorious! Who would have thought, when leaving New York in a snow storm, as we did, that we would run right into the heart of spring." I hope you are enjoying your voyage."
"I am." "You ought to. By the way, why are you so awful stand-offish? Is it natural, or

"I do not know what you mean by stand-You know very well what I mean. Why do you pretend to be so stiff and formal with a fellow?"

"I am never stiff and formal with any one unless I do not desire his acquaintance." Fleming laughed loudly. "I suppose that's



You Evidently Do Not Think My Conversation Will Be at All Worth

mines very good properties, and he thinks owners ask for them at present. But you can have no possible interest in these dry

"Indeed, you are mistaken. I think what you have told me intensely interesting." For once in her life Miss Jennie Brewster

told the exact truth. . The unfortunate man at her side was flattered.

"For what I have told you," he said,
"we were offered twice what the London
people pay us for coming outhere. In fact,
even more than that. We were asked to
name our own price."

"Really, now. By the owners of the

property, I suppose, if you wouldn't tell on them?" "No. By one of your famous New York



in His Hands. newspaper men.He even went so far as to steal the papers that Kenyon had in Ottawa. He was cleverly caught, though, before he could make any use of what hehadstolen. In "I don't think my experience would interest you in the least. There was one case with which I had something to do in London two years ago that—"

"Oh. London. I don't believe the book keepers there are half so sharp as ours. If you had to deal with American accountants you would not find out so easily what they had or had not done."

"Well. Miss Brewster, what I tell you is, of course, in confidence. I wouldn't whisper it to anybody else, but I may say I have just had an experience of that kind with consultant further in the same accountant."

"You shouldn't run down an accountant just because he is an American. Perhaps

a personal bint. Well, it seems to me, if a personal bint. Weal, it seems to me, this exclusiveness is gennine, that you would be more afraid of newspaper noto-riety than of anything else."
"Why do you say that?"
"Because I can't, for the life of me, see

thy you spend so much time with 'Dolly oimple.' I am sure I don't know why she s here, but I do know this, that you will be served up to the extent of two or three olumns in the Sunday Argus as sure as

"I don't understand you." "You don't? Why, it's plain enough, You spend all your time with her." "I do not even know of whom you are

speaking."
"Oh, come now, that's too rich. Is it. possible that you don't know that Miss fennie Brewster is the one who writes those Sunday articles under the signature of Dolly Dimple."

A strange fear came over Wentworth as his companion mentioned the Argus. He remembered it as J. K. Rivers's paper, but when Fleming said Miss Brewster was a correspondent of the Argus he was aghast. "I-I-I don't think I quite catch your meaning," he stamered.
"Well, my meaning's easy enough to see. Hasn't she ever told you? Then it shows he

wants to do you up on toast. You're not an English politician, are you? You haven't any political secrets that Dolly wants to get at, have you? Why, she is the greatest girl there is in the whole United States for finding out just what a man doesn't want o have known. You know the Secretary to have known. You know the Secretary
of State"—and here Flemming went on to
relate a wonderfully brilliant feat of
"Dolly's," but the person to whom he was
talking had neither eyes nor ears. He heard
nothing, and he saw nothing.
"Dear me," said Flemling, drawing himself

up and slapping the other on the back, "you look perfectly dumfounded. I suppose I oughn't to have given Dolly away like this; but she has pretended all along that she didn't know me, and so I've got even with her. You take my advice, and anything you don't want to see in print don't you tell Miss Brewster, that's all. Have a cigar?" "No, thank you," replied the other, mechanically.

"Better come in and have a drink?"

"No, thank you."
"No, thank you."
"Well, so long. I'll see you later."
"It can't be true. It can't be true." Wentworth repeated to himself with deep consternation, but still with some misglying, warning him that, after all, it might be true. With his hands clasped behind him he walked up anddown, trying to collect himself—trying to remember what he had told and what he had not. As he walked along, heeding nobody, a sweet voice from one of the chairs thrilled

"Why, Mr. Wentworth, what is the matter with you this morning? You look as if you had seen a ghost." Wentworth glanced at the young woman eated in the chair, who was gazing up

"Well," he said at last. "I am not sure, but I have seen a ghost. May I sit down

beside you?"

"May you? Why of course you may. I shall be delighted to have you. Is there anything wrong?"
"I don't know. Yes, I think there is."

"Well, tell it to me; perhaps I can help you. A woman's wit, you know. What

the trouble?"
"May I ask you a few questions, Miss "Certainly. A thousand of them if we

like; and I will onswer them all I can."
"Thank you. Will you tell me, Miss Brewsier, if you are connected with any

Muss Liewster logghed her merry, silvery, little laugh. "Who told you? Ah! I see how it is. It was that creature Fleming I'll get even with him for this tome day." know what office he is after, and next time know what office he is after, and next time he wants a good notice from the Argus he il get it; see it he don't. I know some things about him that he would just as soon not see in print. Why, what a feel the man is! I suppose he told you dot of reverge, because I wouldn't spent to him the other evening. Never mind I can afford to wait."

wait."
"Then—then, Miss Bic water, it is true."
"Certainly it is true; is there enything wrong about it? I hope you don't think it is correputable to belong to a good newspaper?"
"To a good newspaper, no; to a bad news

paper, yes."
"On, I don't think the Argus is a bad newspaper. It pays me well."
"Then it is to the Argus that you be ong?"
"Certainly."

"May I ask, Miss Brewster, if there is "May I ask, Miss Frewster, if there is anything I have spoken to you about that you intend to use in your paper."

Again Miss Brewster laughed. "I will be perfectly frank with you. I never tell a lie—it doesn't pay. Yes. The reason I am here is because you are here. I am here to find out what your report on those mines will be; also what the report of your friend will be. I have found out."
"And do you intend to use the informa-"And do you intend to use the informa-tion you have thus obtained—if I may say it—under false pretences?"
"My dear sir, you are forgetting your-self. You must remember that you are talking to a lady."

"A lady!" cried Wentworth in his an-

guish.

"Yes, sir, a lady; and you must be careful how you talk to this lady. There was no false pretence about it, if you remember. What you told me was in conversation. I didn't ask you for it. I didn't even make the first advances toward your acquainture."

"But you must admit, Miss Brewster, that it is very unfair to get a man to en-gage in what he thinks is a private conver-sation, and then to publish what he has

"My dear sir, if that were the case, how would we get anything for publication that people didn't want to be known? Why, I remember once, when the Secretary of

'Yes," interrupted Wentworth, wearily, Fleming told me that story.' "Oh, did he? Well, I'm sure I'm much bliged to him. Then I need not repeat it."

"Do you mean to say that you intend to send to the Argus for publication what I have told you in confidence?"
"Certainty, As I said before, that is what I am here for. Besides, there is no 'in confidence' about it."

"And yet you pretend to be a truthful, onest, honorable woman?"
"I don't pretend it, I am." "How much truth, then, is there in you

story that you are a millionaire's daughter about to visit your father in Paris, and ac-company him from there to the Riviera?" Miss Frewster laughted brightly. "Oh, I don't call fibs that a persoa has to tell in the way of business untrails."
"Then probably you would not call what
Mr. J. K. Rivers, of your estimable paper,
did in Otta wa dissionorable."
"Well, hardly. I think Rivers was not Jus-

"Well, hardly. I think Rivers was not justified in what he did because he was unsuccessful, that is all. Tüthet a dollar if I had
got hold of those papers they would have
gone through to New Y4rk; but then J. K.
Rivers is only a simple man, and most men
arestuped," with a shyglance at Wentworth.
"I am willing to admit that. Miss Brewster,
if you mean me. There hever was a more
stupid man than I have been."
"My dear Mr. Wengwirth, it will do you
ever so much good if you come to a realiza-

"My dear Mr. Wennybith, it will do you ever so much good if paucome to a realization of that fact. The truth is, you take yourself much too serkoosly. Now, it won't hart you a bit to have what I am going to send published in the Argus, and it will help me a great deaff. Just you wait here for a few moments." With that she flung her book upon his lap, sprang up, and vanished down the companion way. In a very short time she reappeared with some sheets of paper in her hand.

Now, you see how fair and bonest I am

Now, you see how fair and honest I am going to be. I am going to read you what I have written. If there is anything in it that is not true, I will very gladly out if out; and if there is anything more to be added, I will very gladly add it. Is not

She began to read: "By an unexampled the London syndicate to examine into the accounts and inquire into the true value of the mines on the Ottawa river." She looked up from the paper an2 said, with an air of friendly confidence:

people at the New York end would know enough to write it themselves; but as the paper is edited by dull men, and not by a sharp woman, I have to make them pay twenty-five cents a word for puffing their own enterprise. Well, to go on:"

"When it is remembered that the action of the London syndicate will depend entirely on the report of these two gentle-

"I wouldn't put it that way," inter-rupted Wentworth in his despair. "I would use the word 'largely' for 'entirely."

"Oh, thank you," said Miss Brewster cordially. She placed the manuscript on her kree, and with her pencil marked out the word "entirely," substituting the "largely." The reading went on: "When don syndicate will depend largely upon the report of these two gentleman, the enter report of these two genterman, the their prise of the Argus in getting this exclusive information, which will be immediately cabled to London may be imagined." That is the preliminary, you see, and, as I said, it wouldn't be necessary to cable it if women were at the head of affairs over there, which they are not. Mr. John Kenyon, the mining expert, has visited all the mineral ranges along the Ottawa River, and his report is that the mines are very much what is claimed for them; but he thinks they are not worked properly, although, with Judicious management and more careful mining, the properties can be made to pay good dividends. Mr. George Wentworth, one of the leading accountants of Lon-

"I wouldn't say that, either," grouned leorge. "Just strike out the words 'one George. "Just strike out the words one of the leading accountants of London."
"Yes;" said Miss Browster, "and what shall I put in the place of them;"
"Put in place of them; the stupidest ass in London."

in London.'"

Miss Brewster laughed at this. "No; I shall put in what I first wrote: 'Mr. George Wentworth, one of the leading accountants of London, has gone through the books of the different mines. He has made some startling discoveries. The accounts have been kept in such a way as to completely delude investors, and this fact will have a powerful effect on the minds of the London syndicate. The books of the different mines show a profit of about \$200,000, whereas the actual facts of the gase are that there has been an annual loss of something like \$100,000—'"

"What's that—what's that?" cried Western and this woy age?"

"Calculations. I don't know what you mean."

"Well, I mean just this: We will probably reach Queenstown on Saturday afternoon. This report, making allowance for the difference in the time, will appear in the Argus on Sunday morning. Your telegram will reach your house or firm on Saturday and proposition of the London syndicate. The books of the difference in the time, will appear in the Argus on Sunday morning and be done with it. Sunday nothing can be done. Monday morning, before your report will reach the difference in the time, will appear in the Argus on Sunday morning. Your telegram will reach your house or firm on Saturday nothing can be done. Monday morning, before your report will reach the difference in the time, will appear in the Argus on Sunday morning. Your telegram will reach your house or firm on Saturday nothing can be done. Monday morning, before your report will reach the difference in the time, will appear in the Argus on Sunday morning. Your telegram will reach your house or firm on Saturday night, when nothing can be done. Monday morning the Argus on Sunday morning.

"What's that-what's that?" cried Went

worth sharply.

"Dollars, you know. You said £20,000. We put it in dollars, don't you see?"

"Oh," said Wentworth, relapsing again.

—\$100,000—where was I? Oh, yes. It is claimed that an American expert went-over these books before Mr. Wentworth, and that he asserted they were all right. An explanation from the gentleman will now be in order."

"There," cried the young lady, "that is

"There," cried the young lady, "that is the substance of the thing. Of course, I may amplify a little more before we get to Queenstown, so as to make them pay more money. People don't value a thing that doesn't cost them dearly. How do you like it? Is it correct." like it? Is it correct?" "Perfectly correct," answered the mis-

"Oh, I am glad you like it. I do love "I didn't say I liked it."
"I'didn't say I liked it."
"No, of course, you couldn't be expected to say that, but I am glad you think it is accorate. I will add a note to the effect

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Wentworth was so confounded with the woman's impudence that he could make Can Cure You. ,

She began to read: "By an unexampled stroke of enterprise, the New York Argus is enabled to lay before its readers this morning a full and exclusive account of the report made by the two English specialists, Mr. George Wentworth and Mr. John Kenyon, who were sent over by feel their youthful vieor and power de-clining should consult Dr. Walker, who has been the means of restoring hundreds of such unfortunates to health, strength,

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that you think it is a good resume of your

report."
"For heaven's sake, don't drag me into
the matter," cried Wentworth.
"Well, I won't if you don't want me to."
There was silence for a few moments. there was sinched for a few moments, during which the young woman seemed to be adding commas and full-stops to the MS, on her knee. Wentworth cleared his throat two or three times, but his lips were so dry that he could hardly speak. At last he said:
"Miss Brewster, how can I induce you not work the tree of the said to the said that the said the said that the said the said that the said that the said the said that the osendthat from Queenstown to your paper?

The young woman looked up at him with a pleasant, bright smile.

"Induce me! Why, you couldn't do it—it couldn't be done. This will be one of the greatest triumphs I have ever achieved. Think of Rivers failing in it, and me accom-

"Yes, I have thought of that," replied the young man, despondently. "Now, per-haps, you don't know that the full report was mailed from Ottawa to our house in London, and the moment we got to Queenstown I will telegraph my partners to put the report in the hands of the directors?"

"Oh, I know all about that," replied Miss Brewster, "Rivers told me. He read the letter that was inclosed with the documents he took from your friend. Now have you made any calculations about this voy

night. The first thing your directors will see of it will be in the London financial papers on Monday morning. That's what I mean, Mr. Wentworth, by calculating

the voyage."
Wentworth said no more. He staggered to his feet and made his way as best he could to the stateroom, groping like a blind man. There he sad down with his bend in his bands,

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